

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/738,915  
Reply to Office Action dated March 31, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A method of harvesting a crop in a field, the crop having a stem and leaves, the method comprising:  
  
stripping leaves from the stem at a first time; and  
  
harvesting the stem at a second time after the first time.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the stem is cut at the first time and allowed to dry in the field until the second time.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the crop is alfalfa.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the crop is mint.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the crop is barley.
6. (Original) A method of harvesting a crop having leaves and a stem, comprising:  
  
stripping the leaves from the stem at a first time, while leaving the stem standing;  
  
allowing leaves to regrow on the stem;  
  
stripping the leaves from the stem and cutting the stem;  
  
allowing the stem to dry;  
  
harvesting the stem.

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7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the crop comprises alfalfa.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the stem is left in the field to dry.
9. (Original) A method of managing protein content of a crop having a first portion having a first nutritional content and a second portion having a second nutritional content, comprising:
  - removing the first portion of the crop from the second portion;
  - allowing the first portion to regrow and removing regrown first portions from the second portion a predetermined number of times;
  - harvesting the second portion a predetermined number of times during selected removing of the first portion; and
  - mixing a first amount of the first portion with a second amount of the second portion to achieve desired nutritional content.
10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the crop comprises alfalfa and the first portion comprises alfalfa leaves and the second portion comprises alfalfa stems.
11. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the second portion is cut and dried in the field while harvesting the first portion.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the nutritional content comprises protein content.
13. (Original) A method of harvesting a crop, comprising:
  - harvesting a percentage of a first portion of a crop having a first nutritional content;

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harvesting a second portion of the crop having a second nutritional content separately from the first portion ;

mixing a first amount of the first portion with a second amount of the second portion to achieve a desired nutritional content.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the first portion of the crop is cut at a first time and allowed to dry in the field until a second time when harvesting the second portion of the crop.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the first portion of the crop comprises leaves and the second portion of the crop comprises a stem.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the crop is alfalfa.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the crop is mint.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the crop is barley.